

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01227 231933Z

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12
NEA-10 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 COME-00 OIC-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /122 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3289

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, SHUM

SUBJECT: 62ND ECOSOC--ITEM 3, DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT
RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

REF: STATE 090929

1. DEBATE ON THE DECADE CONTINUED AT THE PLENARY SESSIONS THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, APRIL 21 AND 22. THE TONE OF THE DEBATE IS MARKEDLY MORE RESTRAINED THAN THAT OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS, WITH SPEAKERS CONCENTRATING ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND REFRAINING FROM OPEN ATTACKS ON ISRAEL. THE USUAL STATEMENTS ABOUT THE TEL AVIV - PRETORIA AXIS HAVE NOT SURFACED. ONLY TWO SPEAKERS, IRAQ AND CHINA HAVE MENTIONED ZIONISM, AND ONLY BRIEFLY.

2. THE SPEAKERS LIST FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS INCLUDED ARGENTINA, USSR, ALGERIA, AUSTRALIA, BYELORUSSIAN SSR, GDR, PHILIPPINES, CHINA, IRAQ, YUGOSLAVIA, UKRAINIAN SSR, TUNISIA.

3. CHINA DEVOTED ITS CRITICISM TO THE ACTIONS OF THE TWO SUPER POWERS IN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY ZAIRE, BUT INCLUDED MENTION OF ZIONISM IN ITS LIST OF RACIST PRACTICES.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01227 231933Z

3. THE ARAB STATES ALL MADE REFERENCE TO PROBLEMS OF RACISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST BUT MADE NO MENTION OF ISRAEL BY NAME. ONLY IRAQ MADE REFERENCE TO THE AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT CONDEMNATION OF ZIONISM.

4. THE EASTERN EUROPEANS HAVE CONCENTRATED ON SOUTHERN AFRICA,

BUT HAVE NOT MENTIONED THE US OR OTHER WESTERN STATES BY NAME
IN CONDEMNING STATES WHICH SUPPORT SOUTH AFRICA. THEY HAVE
AVOIDED THE ZIONISM ISSUE ALTHOUGH.

5. AUSTRALIA, ALTHOUGH ONLY OBSERVER, TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY
TO INFLUENCE A FEW VOTES FOR THE UPCOMING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
ELECTION AND ANNOUNCED IT WOULD MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION
TO AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE. AUSTRALIA ALSO
EXPRESSED REGRETS THAT GHANA HAD TO WITHDRAW ITS OFFER TO HOST
THE DECADE CONFERENCE, STATED THAT THEY HOPED FOR A HOST CITY
IN AFRICA AND STATED THAT THEY LOOKED FORWARD TO PARTICIPATING IN THE
DECADE CONFERENCE, WHEREVER IT IS HELD.

6. GHANA, NIGERIA AND EGYPT ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON DRAFT
RESOLUTION BUT NONE HAVE SURFACED PUBLICLY YET. MEMBERS OF
THW WESTERN GROUP HAVE MADE KNOWN THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT THE
REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND THEIR HOPE THAT THE
DRAFT RESOLUTION WILL NOT GO BEYOND TAKING NOTE OF THE REPORT.

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Message Attributes

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